AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

Please delete the paragraph on page 3, lines 27-34, and substitute the following paragraph below:

-----In matrix patches, the active compound is included in the adhesive matrix in a form that is safe from leaking, and the patch can be cut to the size using ordinary scissors. On the other hand, it is difficult under certain circumstances to adjust the solubility properties of the matrix for the active compound such that the active compound can be dissolved in the matrix in the necessary amount and also remains dissolved during the storage. In the case of a patch to deliver capsaicin or an analog, the therapeutic compound present in the matrix in undissolved form, or which recrystallizes during the storage period, makes no contribution to the release of active compound in the skin because of the desired short application period of at least most a few hours for a capsaicin patch or a patch having a capsaicin-containing active compound for the therapy of neuropathic pain.

Surprisingly, it has now been found that, for a patch for a high-dose therapy for the treatment of neuropathic pain with capsaicin or substances analogous to capsaicin, a further, lesser known patch variant, a "microreservoir system", is particularly highly suitable. No reference to such microreservoir systems can be inferred from the previously mentioned U.S. Patent 6,239,180.

The invention therefore related to a topical patch comprising an active compound-impermeable backing layer, a self-adhesive matrix based on polysiloxanes containing at least 3% by weight, preferably 5% by weight, of capsaicin or active compounds analogous to capsaicin, preferably capsaicin, and a protective film to be removed before use, in which

a. the matrix contains liquid microreservoirs based on an amphiphilic solvent, in which the active compound is present in completely dissolved form and
b. the concentration of the active compound in the microreservoirs is between 20 and 90% by weight, preferably 40 and 70% by weight, of the saturation concentration.

Possible amphiphilic solvents for the active compound are preferably butanediols, such as 1,3-butanediol, dipropylene glycol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, diethylene glycol dimethyl ether, diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, carboxylic acid esters of tri- and diethylene glycol, polyethoxylated fatty alcohols of 6 - 18 C atoms or 2,2-dimethyl-4-hydroxymethyl-1,3-dioxolane (Solketal®), in particular glycol, 1,3-butanediol, dipropylene, diethylene glycol monoethyl ether or 2,2-dimethyl-4-hydroxymethyl-1,3-dioxolane or mixtures of these solvents.

The solvent or the solvent mixture of the microreservoirs can contain a viscosity-increasing additive such a cellulose derivative or a high molecular weight polyacrylic acid or its salt and/or derivatives such as esters, preferably ethylcellulose or hydroxypropylcellulose.-----